

Subpart B—Amount of Monthly Premiums

§ 408.20 Monthly premiums.

(a) *Statutory provisions.* (1) The law established a monthly premium of \$3 for the initial period of the program. It also set forth criteria and procedures for the Secretary to follow each December, beginning with December 1968, to determine and promulgate the standard monthly premium for the 12-month period beginning with July of the following year.

(2) The law was amended in 1983 to require that the Secretary promulgate the standard monthly premium in September of that year, and each year thereafter, to be effective for the 12 months beginning with the following January.

(3) The standard monthly premium applies to individuals who enroll during their initial enrollment periods. In other situations, that premium may be increased or decreased as specified in this subpart.

(4) The law was further amended in 1984 to include a temporary “hold harmless” provision (set forth in paragraph (e) of this section), that was subsequently extended and finally made permanent in 1988.

(b) *Criteria and procedures for the period from July 1976 through December 1983, the period from January 1991 through December 1995, and for periods after December 1998.* (1) For periods from July 1976 through December 1983 and after December 1998, the Secretary determines and promulgates as the standard monthly premium (for disabled as well as aged enrollees) the lower of the following:

(i) The actuarial rate for the aged.

(ii) The monthly premium promulgated the previous December for the year beginning July 1, increased by a percentage that is the same as the latest cost-of-living increase in old age insurance benefits that occurred before the current promulgation. (Because of the change in the effective dates of the premium amount (under paragraph (a)(2) of this section), there was no increase in the standard monthly premium for the period July 1983 through December 1983.)

(2) For periods after December 1998, the Secretary determines the standard monthly premium in the manner specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, but promulgates it in September for the following calendar year.

(3) The premiums for calendar years 1991 through 1995 are those amounts as specified by section 1839(e)(1)(B) of the Act as follows:

(i) In 1991, \$29.90;

(ii) In 1992, \$31.80;

(iii) In 1993, \$36.60;

(iv) In 1994, \$41.10; and

(v) In 1995, \$46.10.

(c) *Premiums for calendar years 1984 through 1990 and 1996 through 1998.* For calendar years 1984 through 1990 and 1996 through 1998, the standard monthly premium for all enrollees—

(1) Is equal to 50 percent of the actuarial rate for enrollees age 65 or over, that is, is calculated on the basis of 25 percent of program costs without regard to any cost-of-living increase in old age insurance benefits; and

(2) Is promulgated in the preceding September.

(d) *Limitation on increase of standard premium: 1987 and 1988.* If there is no cost-of-living increase in old age or disability benefits for December 1985 or December 1986, the standard monthly premiums for 1987 and 1988 (promulgated in September 1986 and September 1987, respectively) may not be increased.

(e) *Nonstandard premiums for certain cases—*(1) *Basic rule.* A nonstandard premium may be established in individual cases only if the individual is entitled to old age or disability benefits for the months of November and December, and actually receives the corresponding benefit checks in December and January.

(2) *Special rules: Calendar years 1987 and 1988.* For calendar years 1987 and 1988, the following rules apply:

(i) A nonstandard premium may be established if there is a cost-of-living increase in old age or disability benefits but, because the increase in the standard premium is greater than the cost-of-living increase, the beneficiary would receive a lower cash benefit in January than he or she received in December.

(ii) A nonstandard premium may not be established if the reduction in the individual's benefit would result, in whole or in part, from any circumstance other than the circumstance described in paragraph (e)(2)(i) of this section.

(3) *Special rule: Calendar years after 1988.* (i) Beginning with calendar year 1989, a premium increase greater than the cost-of-living increase is still a prerequisite for a nonstandard premium.

(ii) However, a nonstandard premium is not precluded solely because the cash benefit is further reduced as a result of government pension offset or workers' compensation payment.

(4) *Amount of nonstandard premium.* The nonstandard premium is the greater of the following:

(i) The premium paid for December.

(ii) The standard premium promulgated for January, reduced as necessary to compensate for—

(A) The fact that the cost-of-living increase was less than the increase in the standard premium; or

(B) The further reduction in benefit because of government pension offset or workers' compensation payments.

(5) *Effective dates of nonstandard premium.* A nonstandard premium established under this paragraph (e) continues in effect for the rest of the calendar year even if later there are retroactive adjustments in benefit payments. (The nonstandard premium could be affected by a determination that the individual had not established, or had lost, entitlement to monthly benefits for November or December, or both.)

(6) *Effect of late enrollment or reenrollment.* A nonstandard premium is subject to increase for late enrollment or reenrollment as required under other sections of this subpart. The increase is computed on the basis of the standard premium and added to the nonstandard premium.

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§ 408.22 Increased premiums for late enrollment and for reenrollment.

For an individual who enrolls after expiration of his or her initial enrollment period or reenrolls after termination of a coverage period, the standard monthly premium determined

under § 408.20 is increased by ten percent for each full twelve months in the periods specified in §§ 408.24 and 408.25.

§ 408.24 Individuals who enrolled or reenrolled before April 1, 1981 or after September 30, 1981.

(a) *Enrollment.* For an individual who first enrolled before April 1, 1981 or after September 30, 1981, the period *includes* the number of months elapsed between the close of the individual's initial enrollment period and the close of the enrollment period in which he or she first enrolled, and *excludes* the following:

(1) The three months of January through March 1968, if the individual first enrolled before April 1968.

(2) Any months before January 1973 during which the individual was precluded from enrolling or reenrolling by the 3-year limitation on enrollment or reenrollment that was in effect before October 30, 1972.

(3) Any months in or before a period of coverage under a State buy-in agreement.

(4) For an individual under age 65, any month before his or her current continuous period of entitlement to hospital insurance.

(5) For an individual age 65 or older, any month before the month he or she attained age 65.

(6) For premiums due for months beginning with September 1984 and ending with May 1986, the following:

(i) Any months after December 1982 during which the individual was—

(A) Age 65 to 69;

(B) Entitled to hospital insurance (Medicare Part A); and

(C) Covered under a group health plan (GHP) by reason of current employment status.

(ii) Any months of SMI coverage for which the individual enrolled during a special enrollment period as provided in § 407.20 of this chapter.

(7) For premiums due for months beginning with June 1986, the following:

(i) Any months after December 1982 during which the individual was:

(A) Age 65 or over; and

(B) Covered under a GHP by reason of current employment status.

(ii) Any months of SMI coverage for which the individual enrolled during a